

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully acknowledges receipt of the Office Action mailed September 10, 2008.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 13; rejected claims 1, 5-7, 10, 12, 16, 17, 21, 27, 28, 31, 33, 37, 38, 43, 47, 49, 50, 53, 55, 59, and 60 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Kiriki et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,349,083); rejected claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12, 16-18, 21, 22, 24-28, 30, 31, 33, 37-40, 43, 44, 46-50, 52, 53, 55, and 59-62 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Saito* (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0021039); rejected claims 8, 29, and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kiriki* in view of *Maruyama* (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2001/0008512); rejected claims 19, 41, and 63 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Kiriki* in view of *applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA)*; rejected claims 8, 19, and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Saito* in view of *Maruyama*; rejected claims 19, 41, and 63 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Saito*; and objected to claims 3, 11, 13-15, 20, 23, 32, 34-36, 42, 45, 54, 56-58, and 64 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 11-14, 21-23, 27, 28, 30, 32-35, 43-45, 49, 50, 52, and 54-57, cancels claims 8, 10, 18-20, 29, 31, 40-42, 51, 53, and 62-64, without prejudice or disclaimer, and adds new claims 65-67. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-7, 9, 11-17, 21-28, 30, 32-39, 43-50, 52, 54-61, and 65-67 will be pending. Of these claims, claims 1, 6, 21, 27, 43, and 49 are independent.

The originally-filed specification, claims, abstract, and drawings fully support the amendments to claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 11-14, 21-23, 27, 28, 30, 32-35, 43-45, 49, 50, 52, and 54-57, and the addition of new claims 65-67. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 11, 13-15, 20, 23, 32, 34-36, 42, 45, 54, 56-58, and 64.

Consequently, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 6 to include the features of allowable claim 20, independent claims 21 and 27 to include the features of allowable claim 42, and independent claims 43 and 49 to include the features of allowable claim 64. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 6, 21, 27, 43, and 49 are in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 2-5, 7, 9, 11-17, 22-26, 28, 30, 32-39, 44-48, 50, 52, 54-61, and 65-67 are in condition for allowance at least due to their corresponding dependence from independent claims 1, 6, 21, 27, 43, and 49.

I. OBJECTION TO THE CLAIM

Claim 13 stands objected to because of an informality. Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to claim 13 has been rendered moot by the amendments to claim 13. Applicant therefore requests that the objection to claim 13 be withdrawn.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102 REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 5-7, 10, 12, 16, 17, 21, 27, 28, 31, 33, 37, 38, 43, 47, 49, 50, 53, 55, 59, and 60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Kiriki*; and claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12, 16-18, 21, 22, 24-28, 30, 31, 33, 37-40, 43, 44, 46-50, 52, 53, 55, and 59-62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Saito*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections. Applicant further submits that the

rejections of claims 10, 18, 31, 40, 53, and 62 have been rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejections, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 6 to include the features of allowable claim 20, independent claims 21 and 27 to include the features of allowable claim 42, and independent claims 43 and 49 to include the features of allowable claim 64. It is those features which the Examiner admits are not disclosed in either *Kiriki*, *Saito*, or any other prior art of record. (*Office Action*, p. 18, ll. 12-17). Accordingly, independent claims 1, 6, 21, 27, 43, and 49, and claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 16, 17, 22, 24-26, 28, 30, 33, 37-39, 44, 46-48, 50, 52, 55, and 59-61 which correspondingly depend from independent claims 1, 6, 21, 27, 43, and 49, are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore requests that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12, 16-18, 21, 22, 24-28, 30, 31, 33, 37-40, 43, 44, 46-50, 52, 53, 55, and 59-62 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 102(e) be withdrawn.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTIONS

Claims 8, 29, and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kiriki* in view of *Maruyama*; claims 19, 41, and 63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Kiriki* in view of *applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA)*; claims 8, 19, and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Saito* in view of *Maruyama*; and claims 19, 41, and 63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Saito*. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 8, 19, 29, 41, 51, and 63 have been rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims, without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant therefore

requests that the rejection of claims 8, 19, 29, 41, 51, 63 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

IV. NEW CLAIMS

New claims 65-67 correspondingly depend from claims 11, 32, and 54 and are allowable at least for the same reasons claims 11, 32, and 54 are allowable. In addition, each of the dependent claims recites unique combinations that are neither taught nor suggested by the cited art, and therefore each also is separately patentable.

V. CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-7, 9, 11-17, 21-28, 30, 32-39, 43-50, 52, 54-61, and 65-67 are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicant does not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant declines to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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By: /David W. Hill/
David W. Hill
Reg. No. 28,220